

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309283

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JAKARTA BANGKOK CANBERRA
HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE TOKYO CINCPAC FROM MANILA
DTD 23 DEC 1977 DTG R 230700Z DEC 1977 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 20173

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, E, RP

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN RELATIONS

REF: JAKRATA 16976 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY MANILA HEARTILY SECONDS THE CONCLUSION IN
JAKARTA'S THOUGHTFUL CABLE THAT WE CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING
CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN AREAS IN WHICH WE CAN BE FORTHCOMING AND
AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS WHICH PROVIDE SUBSTANCE TO OUR RECOG-
NITION OF ASEAN'S IMPORTANCE.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT
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SEND A SENIOR OFFICIAL ON A TOUR OF THE ASEAN CAPITALS ABOUT
A MONTH BEFORE THE SECOND US/ASEAN MEETING IN JUNE, IN
WASHINGTON. BY THAT TIME, THE ASEAN WASHINGTON
COMMITTEE AND THE VARIOUS JOINT WORKING GROUPS WOULD
HAVE COMPLETED MOST OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING.
A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL, AT THE LEVEL OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ERLAND HEGINBOTHAM OR EVEN HIGHER, COULD HELP

SHAPE ASEAN EXPECTATION IN REALISTIC DIRECTIONS AND
ALSO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE TRIP COINCIDE WITH THE ASEAN
TRADE FAIR (MAY 7 TO 21), FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES
IF SCHEDULING PERMITS. SUCH A TOUR WOULD CLEARLY EXPRESS
USG SUPPORT OF A SPECIFIC ASEAN UNDERTAKING AS WELL AS
FURNISH AN OCCASION FOR CONSULTATIONS WHICH WOULD
REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ASEAN.
NEWSOM UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER

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